

REMARKS

Claims 53-55, 57-63, 66-69, and 71-76 were pending and under consideration in the instant application. Claim 66 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the amended claims in this or a separate application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement that claims 53-55 and 57-63 are allowed.

Rejection of Claims 66-69 and 71-76 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 66-69 and 71-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because, according to the Examiner, “the specification, while being enabling for a single chain MHC class II-peptide complex where the presenting peptide is one that would be non-covalently bound by the MHC class II molecule such that the MHC/peptide complex can be recognized by a CD4+ T cell, does not reasonably provide enablement for a single chain MHC class II-peptide complex where the presenting peptide is not one that would be non-covalently bound to by the peptide binding groove of the MHC class II.”

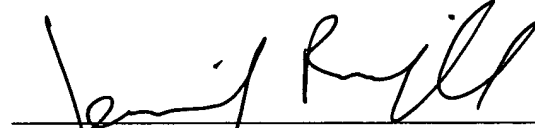
Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, and in no way conceding to the validity of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 66 to recite that the presenting peptide is “non-covalently bound to the peptide binding groove of the MHC molecule”.

Applicants submit that, in view of the amendment, the claims are enabled, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

CONCLUSION

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' agent would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 439-4444.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer K. Rosenfield (Reg. No. 53,531)
Intellectual Property Practice Group of
EDWARDS & ANGELL LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
Tel.: 617.439.4444
Fax 617.439.4170

Customer No. 21874

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